

REMARKS

In the above-identified Office Action the claims were again rejected as being obvious in view of a combination of the disclosures of the previously cited Masuda and Tsunoda patents. In response, independent Claim 1 has been amended and new independent Claim 13 has been submitted, wherein those claims are believed to be patentably distinct over the cited references for the reasons set forth below.

In particular, in accordance with the present invention as set forth in amended Claim 1 and new Claim 13, the required screw portion of the image reading apparatus has a plurality of projecting portions along its circumference, wherein at least those projecting portions of the screw portion are plastically deformable. In addition, play in the mounting portion between the screw portion and the screw hole is absorbed by the plastic deformation of the projected portions. Consequently, play in the mounting portion is eliminated, and vibration of an optical unit (reflection system) during the scanning operation can be prevented from occurring.

Also, "the projecting portions are provided in an area other than a tip end area of the screw portion." With this structure, it is easy to commence making a connection between the screw portion and the screw hole.

Referring now the cited prior art, the Masuda and Tsunoda references differ from the present invention in that they do not disclose the patentably distinct features as characterized above. That is, those references do not disclose a plurality of plastically deformable projecting portions along the circumference of a screw portion, nor do they disclose that those projecting portions are provided at an area other than the tip end area of the screw portion.

For these various reasons it is believed that the claims as now presented are allowable over the cited references, wherefore the issuance of a Notice of Allowance is solicited.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our New York Office by telephone at (212) 218-2100. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our address listed below.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge fees or credit overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-3939.

Respectfully submitted,

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